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Locked Away



16 1 3

Chapter 1 by Catherine Ryan

The guard throws me to the cement ground. My elbow scrapes across the rough surface. "I hope you rot, worthless traitor." The guard spits at my feet and leaves. Gingerly, I move to my feet, cradling my throbbing elbows.

The cell is tiny, maybe five feet by five feet. The only light is from a high window, letting in a small square of moon in the center of the room. I manage to stand up straight, and then freeze. A rustling in a dark corner sets my nerves on edge. "Is someone there?" I call wearily.

"Please don't hurt me." A child's voice answers me back. My stomach clenches. A child? Imprisoned? What kind of operation is this? Yours- a smooth voice in the back of my head says. I ignore the raging guilt.

"Don't worry, I won't," I say. Anymore- the guilt in me says back. Again, I ignore it. I sit down in the patch of moonlight so the child may see me, and hold out my hand. "Will you come out?"

"No!" The child says. I hear him or her shuffle deeper into the corner.

"I really won't hurt you. We're both stuck in the same spot."

"No, you will be afraid of me if you see me!" I smile sadly.

"I know you must have been locked in here for a long while with a chance to clean yourself, but I doubt a child could be that terrifying."

"Please don't ask me to come out." I hear the desperation in the kid's voice.

"Okay, but once the sun comes up tomorrow I'll be able to see you." I start to pull myself away into a corner.

"Wait!" The child says. I stop. "I didn't want to give you nightmares, but your right. You might as well know what your cell mate is before you go to sleep." And into the ray of moonlight, a green,

gnarled hand covered in cooling bell-shaped scales to reveal razor sharp claws.

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Chapter 2 by Luke Meyers

Unraveling my own pestile

little one. For you, the change has simply come quickl

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